

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) Method for decoding items of subtitling data, including the steps:
 - retrieving (202) items of Character Referencing Data (103, 203) that are related to corresponding parts of a video or audio-visual data signal (101), which Character Referencing Data items describe sequences of characters as well as information about where in pictures of said data signal and/or when and/or how to make the referenced characters visible using a display memory (207);
 - deriving (206) from said items of Character Referencing Data items of Character Selection Information and Character Positioning Information;
 - reading (206) from a font memory (208) pixel data of said referenced characters as designated by said items of Character Selection Information and writing (206) said pixel data read into said display memory (207) as designated by said items of Character Positioning Information,
characterised in that wherein before said step of retrieving items of Character Referencing Data is carried out, the following steps are carried out:
 - retrieving (202) for storage items of Font Describing Data (102, 204) that are related to corresponding ones of said items of Character Referencing Data (103, 203), wherein said Font Describing Data represent pixel data of referenced characters, whereby said video or audio-visual data signal (101) was pre-recorded by a content provider of said video or audio-visual data signal, and whereby the number and design of characters to be used for display is completely under the control of said content provider;
 - checking (205) whether or not particular items of said Font Describing Data are already stored in said font memory (208), and if said particular items of said Font Describing Data are not yet stored in said font memory,
writing said particular items of Font Describing Data into said font memory.

2. (currently amended) Apparatus for decoding items of subtitling data, said apparatus including:
 - a data separator (202)-for retrieving items of Character Referencing Data (103, 203) that are related to corresponding parts of a video or audio-visual data signal (101), which Character Referencing Data items describe sequences of characters as well as information about where in pictures of said data signal and/or when and/or how to make the referenced characters visible using a display memory (207);
 - means (206)-for deriving from said items of Character Referencing Data items of Character Selection Information and Character Positioning Information, and for reading from a font memory (208)-pixel data of said referenced characters as designated by said items of Character Selection Information, and for writing (206)said pixel data read into said display memory (207) as designated by said items of Character Positioning Information,
characterised by comprising:
 - said data separator (202)-also retrieves for storage items of Font Describing Data (102, 204) that are related to corresponding ones of said items of Character Referencing Data (103, 203), wherein said Font Describing Data represent pixel data of referenced characters, whereby said video or audio-visual data signal (101)-was pre-recorded by a content provider of said video or audio-visual data signal, and whereby the number and design of characters to be used for display is completely under the control of said content provider;
 - means (205)-for checking whether or not particular items of said Font Describing Data are already stored in said font memory (208), and for writing said particular items of Font Describing Data into said font memory if said particular items of said Font Describing Data are not yet stored in said font memory.